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## Troubled waters

Business owners fear for their futures following the crash last week involving a ship and Main Street Welland Canal bridge  
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## With open arms

One local church has stepped up to assist with the Syrian refugee crisis, by welcoming newcomers to the community  
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**P** POSTMEDIA

## ■ I'VE BEEN THINKING

# Thanksgiving is a time to keep ourselves grateful

**GORD ABRAHAM**

Port Colborne Baptist Church

**I**t's so easy to find what is wrong in everyone else and everything. Complain, grumble, and gripe. Yet it's so destructive. To all those you complain against and to you yourself.

Listen to yourself and others and our complaints about people, politicians, bosses, co-workers, spouses, children, neighbours. We are much more likely to complain than to be thankful.

In the New Testament Gospels we find a story of Jesus being approached by 10 lepers. Leprosy was a common disease at that time

and is still found in some countries today. It is caused by bacteria in infections that destroy the skin and nerves in the hands, feet, eyes and nose.

In the time of Jesus, anyone with leprosy was isolated and sent out from society and family. It created alienation and fear, requiring the leper to live in colonies of despair; crying out "unclean" if approached by anyone not contaminated.

Ten desperate lepers approached Jesus and took the chance that this healing rabbi would, at least from a distance, hear their plea for help. We read, "Then men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance

and called out in a loud voice, 'Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.' When He saw them, He said, 'Go, show yourselves to the priests.' And as they went, they were cleansed. One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. He threw himself at Jesus's feet and thanked him — and he was a Samaritan. Jesus asked, 'Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?'

Only one returned to give thanks to Jesus. How many of us are like the nine? We receive good things from the hand of God and from others only to give and complain. We live in a country of opportunity

and wealth (in comparison to many people in other countries). We are healthy and have a home, some food on our table and still we complain that there is not enough or not good enough.

Here are some suggestions to keep yourself grateful.

Read the Gospel of Luke in the New Testament. If you do not have a copy of the Bible then contact one of our local pastors who would be more than willing to give you one. Read about Jesus and how he loves us and cares for us. Read some of the Psalms of David and see how the writers kept gratitude at the front of their minds and attitudes, even at

the worst of times.

Then, tell God, all the things you are thankful for, family, health, friends, and specific events in your day.

A few years ago, I was flying home to Hamilton from a trip out east and the plane was required to make an emergency landing in Toronto, because, as the Pilot said, "we lost power in one of the engines." Silence came over everyone in the cabin, and I prayed for safety.

I am writing this today, I'm still here, and can only give thanks to God for protecting all of us. I could have complained for getting home late and being inconvenienced, but I would be a

fool if I did.

Finally, express your gratefulness and appreciation to people for who they are and what they have done. You will change their life and encourage them in a world that often, only, criticizes people.

Grateful words and an attitude of gratitude are contagious and people will respond positively, under the most difficult of circumstances, when we are grateful to them.

Keep these suggestions in your mind, keep on being grateful and check your complaints at the door. "Give thanks with a grateful heart"

# Shipwrecks - Thornhill

**SKIP GILLMAN**

For Postmedia Network

**T**he 70-year-old bulk carrier *Thornhill* ran aground in the St. Mary's River on Dec. 16, 1975.

This member of the Upper Lakes Shipping fleet received hull damage that led to the vessel being laid up. It was taken to Port Weller Dry Docks the following

June and the report was not good.

As a result of the costs involved, the vessel was retired and eventually sold for scrap.

Despite the unfortunate end to its career, this ship had provided excellent service under both American and Canadian ownership. It had been built at Ecorse, Mich., and entered service as *Ishpeming*, for the Cleveland-Cleveland fleet, in August 1966.

It came to Canada for Upper Lakes Shipping late in 1965 and was renamed *Thornhill* for the 1966 season. The 168.25-metre-long steamship was used mainly in the grain trade but it did make history on Sept. 24, 1967, loading the first cargo of iron ore pellets from the Aitik plant of the Soudbury Iron Mines. This was taken on at Port Arthur (now Thunder Bay) for delivery down the lakes.

*Thornhill* underwent special hull work

in 1968 and 1971 that extended its career and made it more suitable for the grain trade to places such as Collingwood and Goderich. Even in retirement, the ship was used as a grain storage barge at Toronto and survived until a sale for scrap in 1980.

*Thornhill* departed Hamilton under tow on Sept. 4, 1980, and, following a change of tug at Quebec City, reached Mammoth, Columbia, on Oct. 30, 1980, and was broken up.

# Nothing worse than cap-and-trade

**I**ever it is Tom Mulcair and the New Democrats, in advocating a national carbon pricing scheme, to pick the worst one.

That's cap-and-trade, which the European experience has shown is ineffective at lowering greenhouse gas emissions linked to climate change and particularly vulnerable to political corruption and fraud.

Cap-and-trade requires the creation of a massive new government bureaucracy to conduct auctions of carbon credits, so you can see why the NDP like it.

It's even worse than a carbon tax. The only reason politicians seem to prefer

cap-and-trade to a carbon tax — literally — is that they don't have to say the word "tax." The distinction is irrelevant. Cap-and-trade raises prices. A carbon tax raises taxes.

In both cases, the public pays more and the government takes in billions of dollars annually in new revenue.

Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau, who, like Mulcair, has promised to work with the provinces to establish a national carbon pricing scheme, hasn't committed to cap-and-trade or any other form of national carbon pricing.

He's been even more vague than Mulcair, which is alarming.

Ironically, if one believes man-made cli-

mate change is the most pressing issue facing the planet, Bill Blaney and the Greens have the policy that makes the most sense. May, at least, promises that all the money raised through a carbon tax — basically higher sales taxes — would be returned to the public through income tax cuts, rather than going down the black hole of general government revenues.

Known as carbon fee and dividend, this is at least an understandable attempt to use tax policy to influence human behaviour — which governments do all the time — by encouraging people to make less carbon-intensive choices in their lives, while letting

them keep more of the money they earn.

To be clear, we don't support carbon pricing. We agree with Prime Minister Stephen Harper that carbon taxation (or, more correctly, carbon pricing) is really about raising government revenues, not about lowering GHG emissions.

That's what real-world experience — carbon taxes in Norway and cap-and-trade across Europe — indicates.

But if a government is going to implement carbon pricing, the Greens' policy is the only one that makes any sense at all.

—Postmedia Network

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■ **FALL:** Cold damp weather plagues another event

# 'Real troopers' at Harvest Fest

**ALLAN BENNER**  
Postmedia Network

There were more customers than usual in downtown Port Colborne shops, despite the cool damp weather.

And that's precisely what the Downtown Business Improvement Area was hoping to accomplish in its fifth annual Harvest Fest.

The BIA's administrator, Andrea Biotor, said downtown merchants and event organizers were pleased with the turnout and the patience of people, despite the 9C temperature, persistent drizzle and gusts of wind.

"The people who did come out were real troopers, and we were pretty pleased with the turnout consider-

ing," she said.

"Regardless of how you look at it, there are more people on the streets on a Saturday in this type of weather than there would have been without it. No matter how you look at it, there are still people in downtown Port Colborne, and they're checking out the stores and what we have to offer," she said.

"I think that's a good thing."

Biotor said this year's event was "an expanded format," closing parts of Clarence and West streets to traffic, transforming the pavement into marketplaces where vendors could set up tents and sell their wares.

"It's a bigger festival than it has been in the past," she



ALLAN BENNER/POSTMEDIA NETWORK  
Luke Harris, 7, and Catharine Biotor, 8, decorate gourds during Harvest Fest Saturday in Port Colborne.

said.

But the weather this year hasn't been kind to event

organizers in Port Colborne and across Niagara, Biotor said.

In July, area artists teamed up for the Art Crawl, planning sidewalk displays of

their artwork in the downtown area. But that event was rained out.

"I think the weather report was copious amounts of rain that weekend. But copious should only be used to describe wine — not for rain," Biotor said with a laugh.

She said artists who were planning to participate in the Art Crawl were invited back for Harvest Festival, but only four showed up. And the ones who did set up tents on West St. didn't stay long, because of the cold, windy and wet weather.

"What are you going to do, right?" Biotor said. "It's just like every other event this year."

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■ **HOSPITAL:** South Niagara mayors hope to sway province

# Former Welland hospital CEO says it's not needed

**ALLAN BENNER**  
Postmedia Network

As south Niagara's mayors plan to bring their fight for Welland hospital

to Queen's Park, the man who used to run the place told them the region won't need three acute care hospitals in years to come.

Tim Wright, who worked as chief

executive officer of Welland County General Hospital prior to its amalgamation as part of Niagara Health System, joined mayors Frank Campion (Welland), John Maloney (Port

Colborne) and April Jeffs (Wainfleet) members of Welland's health care committee to discuss future strategies to preserve Welland hospital, slated for closure as the province and NHS make plans for a new one in Niagara Falls to replace south Niagara sites.

At last week's meeting, committee members discussed their hopes to meet with the Ministry of Health representatives.

"Clearly if we want to have a three-hospital system, we need to go to the province right now and put our best foot forward," Campion said. "We should go to everyone who will listen to us at Queen's Park, not just the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care."

He said he hopes to put together a package of information, looking at topics such as financial and clinical data, to make the case for the preservation of the Welland site.

"We want to get down and dirty and talk to these people to see if we can sway them," Campion said.

Maloney said it would be ideal if ministry representatives would visit south Niagara, to see first-hand the existing facilities as well as the distances and geographic obstacles to accessing hospitals in St. Catharines or at the proposed hospital site in Niagara Falls.

"If they actually saw what was here in Welland, they may take a different tact," he said.

But Wright said it would be more difficult to attract resources such as medical specialists to a three-hospital system, than it would be to attract those resources to the two large hospitals proposed for the region.

"My own view is that Niagara needs two acute care hospitals, not three for the future," he said.

While Jeffs argued that Welland emer-

gency department is still a functional facility, Wright said it's quickly becoming outdated. Jeffs complained that the existing hospital is often described as "this old decrepit building" by people who are not familiar with the facility.

"But that emergency is only 15 years old I think," she said.

From a layman's perspective, she said the Welland emergency department "doesn't look a whole lot different than the new one."

Wright said by the time a new hospital is built in Niagara, at least a decade down the road, Welland's existing hospital will not be sufficient.

"The building is behind the times now. It still can provide good care, but it's with a struggle," he said. "There are elements of it that just aren't what you want for the future."

Wright said he has seen dramatic changes to health-care delivery in his 37 years working in the industry, such as a growing emphasis on community-based care.

In years to come, he said, 95 per cent of medical services will be offered in the community, rather than hospitals, "and those community resources are going to be every bit as important as hospital resources."

"Focus on the future," Wright urged. "Focus on what the health-care system is going to look like."

In an e-mail, NHS spokesman Brady Wood reaffirmed the health system's commitment to continuing "to work in good faith to implement the supervisor's report," referring to the report by NHS chief executive officer Kevin Smith that recommended the construction of a single new hospital to replace facilities in south Niagara.

Wood said NHS president Suzanne Johnson "has also continued her outreach to elected officials and we are committed to those relationships."

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## ■ ELECTION

## Niagara Centre riding profiled

The Niagara Centre riding includes the municipalities of Port Hope, Welland, Thorold and South St. Catharines, for a total population of 112,727, according to 2011 census data. The riding's boundaries have changed this year, with Welland being moved to the Niagara West riding. In the 2011 federal election, 51,924 of 86,257 eligible voters filled out ballots.

**Postmedia asked candidates in the Niagara Centre riding why they are running in this election. Here they are in alphabetical order:**

MALCOLM ALLEN  
NDP

Age: 62

**Occupation:** MP for Welland from 2008 to present, electrician by trade.

**Family:** I've been married to my wonderful wife Peggy for 36 years and we are the proud parents of Gillian, Callum and Lauren and grandparents of Keegan and Charlotte.

**Lives:** Pelham

**Political experience:** MP for Welland 2008 to present, official opposition agriculture critic and deputy natural resources critic. Elected chair of the Ontario caucus. Official opposition lead on the public accounts committee. Served on Pelham town council from 2003 to 2008 and chaired the municipal corporate services committee. Deputy mayor of Pelham from 2006 to 2008.

**Campaign contact:** 905-735-9696, 905-680-9776, 905-833-0341, malcolm.allen@ndp.ca, malcolm.allen.ndp.ca, Facebook.com/malcolmallenndp, Twitter: @NDPMalcolmAllen, Instagram: malcolmallenndp.

**Office:** Welland, 545 Niagara St, Unit 1; Thorold, 37 Front St.; Port Colborne, 193 Main St. W.

**Why are you seeking office?**

**Jobs:** Under Liberal and Conservative governments, our riding has lost thousands of good-paying factory jobs. Under the Liberal government's watch from the 1990s to the mid-2000s, several factories have closed shop, including Atlas Steel, John Deere and Union Carbide. Since Stephen Harper took office, we have lost 400,000 good-paying manufacturing jobs and there are 60,000 fewer jobs available for youth. Our riding is uniquely positioned along the Welland Canal between two Great Lakes. After consultations with industry, we understand the need to

develop a marine strategy that includes shipbuilding, good jobs for Canadians instead of temporary foreign workers making \$2 an hour, and regulations to enhance Canadian shipping. We are poised for a very big change in Ottawa and the NDP is offering realistic manufacturing and youth employment strategies that will get people back to work in this riding.

I am a hard worker, determined and pragmatic. MP and our constituency office works hard for everyone. I believe in speaking frankly and I believe in fairness for everyone. As official opposition critic for agriculture, I have led the fight for stronger food safety measures and better support for family farms. I've introduced legislation that removes severance pay from EI waiting periods, worked to create a national organ donor registry, and successfully led efforts to remove tax on poppies which led to an additional \$800,000 a year for our veterans.

VANCE BADAWEY  
Liberal Party of Canada

Age: 50

**Occupation:** Operate family business — George Badaway Ltd., president, Vance Badaway & Associates — corporate development

**Family:** Wife Lisa and daughters Logan and Jordan

**Lives:** Port Colborne

**Political experience:** 17 years in elected office, first as a city councillor and then 14 years as mayor and regional councillor. As well, chaired several regional boards, committees and agencies and was a police services board member.

**Campaign contact:** 905-714-0007 or info@vancebadaway.ca, Twitter: @Vbadaway, Facebook.com/Vancebadawayliberal

**Office:** 76 Division St. Unit 102, Welland

**Why are you seeking office?**

**To bring back economic prosperity:** Along the Welland — business investment, jobs, a secure future for our youth.

**To fight for our fair share of federal infrastructure funds which will enhance our local community by funding several projects.** This investment will eliminate the need for municipalities to fund these projects from the pockets of property taxpayers.

**To give tax cuts to the middle class by introducing a seven per cent tax reduction in taxes paid.**

To ensure a secure future for our residents — for the young and young at heart — such as health care, seniors care, youth employment strategies, so our youth can stay right here in Niagara Centre.

## DAVID CLOW

Green Party of Canada

Age: 39

**Occupation:** Filmmaker/activist

**Family:** Not provided

**Lives:** Welland

**Political experience:** A first-time

candidate, although politically active for years lobbying for environmental and social causes.

**Campaign contact:** 289-668-5851, www.facebook.com/david.clow39

**Offices:** 138 East Main St.

**Why are you seeking office?**

I am running as a Green candidate here for many reasons. The first and most important is just the happiness I see in my family and friends experiencing, or lack of it. I watched as real jobs have left this community, leaving their poisons and pulled pensions behind.

I see my whole family and my friend's families struggling to make ends meet. I see government after government promise change that never comes. My duty in this election is to point out that we have three very different parties masquerading as options.

We should be hearing about new green ideas, like walkable cities and free post-secondary tuition. The reason (other parties) are arguing about slight differences in their platforms is because there are only slight differences. These candidates all represent their party. If they

try to speak for us here, they will be booted from their parties — it is as simple as that. I will hold weekly town hall meetings to be sure that I am providing the direct democracy we all want so badly. And we will be talking about what to do with the salary that I will be spending on this community at the first town hall meeting. I will start by giving my phone number for any of you that want to make this community a better one. Give me a call and I will always answer: 289-668-5851.

Continued on next page

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age 11

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## ELECTION

## Niagara Centre riding profiled

From previous page

With your vote, I am going to advocate for the return of that prosperity and ensure Niagara Centre continues to be open for business.

I recognize that talking alone is no way to bring prosperity back to our riding and that is why I have been fully entrenched in my community since I was a young adult.

To fully understand the needs of the people of this riding, I firmly believe you must be involved at the ground level. I have worked tirelessly as an advocate on behalf of those who needed a voice. I have worked to educate myself on the issues facing the people of this diverse riding and have spent my free time volunteering wherever and whenever I could.

ROBERT JOHN WALKER

## Niagara West riding profiled

## THE CANDIDATES

Postmedia asked candidates in the Niagara West riding why they are running in this election. Here they are in alphabetical order:

## DEAN ALLISON

## Conservative

Age 59

Occupation: Parliamentarian

Family: Married with five children

Lives: Beamsville

Political experience: Member of Parliament since 2004

Chair, Standing Committee Foreign Affairs and International Development

Campaign contact: Main campaign office:

Beamsville Town Centre, 4961 King St.,

Beamsville Telephone: Toll Free 1-877-

938-3326, Website [www.deanallison.com](http://www.deanallison.com), e-mail[teamdean@deanallison.com](mailto:teamdean@deanallison.com), Twitter

@DeanAllisonMP, Facebook DeanAllisonMP

Why are you seeking office?

Helping and serving others is what I have enjoyed doing all my life. Assisting people with their issues with the federal government, or guiding an individual in the right direction has been what I have been doing since I was first elected.

I have helped bring hundreds of millions of dollars in funding to our communities. I am proud of my record and excited that

## (A.K.A. RON WALKER)

Marxist-Leninist Party of Canada

Age: 65

Occupation: Retired from GenCorp/Henniges 2006, working part time as teacher's assistant in political science at Brock University. Graduated 2009 MA.

Family: Born in Montreal, relatives in Kingston, northern Ontario and Alberta

Lives: Welland

Political experience: Anti-imperialist student activist in the 1960s and founding member of MLPC in 1970.

Campaign contact: [tw94ba@gmail.com](mailto:tw94ba@gmail.com) or [www.mlpc.ca](http://www.mlpc.ca)

Office: Not provided

Why are you seeking office?

Campaigning to stop the pro-war, anti-worker agenda of the Conservatives and Liberals.

the dollars I have brought to Niagara West have assisted with the funding of significant projects like the Fleming Centre in Beamsville, road and sewer improvements and development of parks in Pelham and West Lincoln, the YMCA in Grimsby, and the refurbishment of the arena in Wainfleet, just to name a few.

Growing the economy is important, especially locally, and championing the needs of new businesses and industries and helping them create new jobs, has and always will be a top priority for me.

## ALAN DEROO

Libertarian Party of Canada

Age: 26

Occupation: Shop manager at Dog treat facility

Family: Single

Lives: Stony Creek

Political experience: Ran in 2014 provincial election for the Libertarian Party of Ontario.

Took political science in University.

Campaign contact: [votellanderoo@gmail.com](mailto:votellanderoo@gmail.com), Facebook.com/[votellanderoo](https://www.facebook.com/votellanderoo)

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# Niagara West riding profiled

From previous page  
Why are you seeking office?  
The reason I am running is to give the residents of Niagara West the gift

of being able to vote for a party that truly believes in individual freedoms and rights, and a limited and fiscally responsible government.

I do not expect to be elected this current election, but I hope to give those who spoiled their ballot or refused to vote in past elections someone who

is worth voting for and aligns with some or all of their views.

I hope to raise awareness for the party and our policies and principals during this election. If elected I actually promise to follow the principals of the Libertarian party along with the wishes and desires of the resident of this riding so long as they do not restrict other citizen's rights and freedoms. Thank you and I hope everyone makes it out to vote for the party that represents them

exciting, thought changing document for you and the future of all our children and Canada.

## HAROLD JONKER

Christian Heritage Party  
Age 42

Occupation: Operations manager of Jonker Trucking Inc.  
Family: Wife of 18 years is Janice, 11 children with one expected in February  
Lives: St. Ann's

Political experience: Ran in 2011 federal election in Niagara Falls. Board of directors of Coucho de lae High School 2010 – present  
Campaign contacts: e-mail harold.jonker@chp.ca, website www.chp.ca  
Why are you seeking office?

The reason I am running is because of our children, the future of our country. The Christian Heritage Party is the only federal party that still believes in the first statement in the constitution: "Whereas Canada is founded upon the principles that recognize the supremacy of God." The CHP is the only party that has the courage to look at all the information that is available and say no to abortion and same sex marriage. The CHP has policies in place to get our budget balanced, will treat our debt like a mortgage to pay off. The CHP will stop the so many programs that don't promote growth and health in our society and economy. Canada's Christian Heritage which has made this country strong and free is slowly being eroded by self interest groups and we need strong wise leadership to lead this country. Canada needs the CHP.

Continued on next page

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## REPRES

Green Party

Age 75

Occupation: Retired principal/teacher  
Family: wife Chris, son-Mark, daughter-Ellen

Lives: Silverdale, St. Ann's

Political Experience: Ran three times federally, one time provincially, three years on executive of the EDA  
Campaign contacts: greentoo@295.ca, 905-957-3597

Why are you seeking office?

Since meeting Elizabeth May, Green Party MP, I have been inspired by her enthusiasm, energy, common sense long term vision and her grassroots approach to politics. I feel it is important to make Niagara West constituents aware of the Green Party policies and the "Green Vision" that I am running for a third time.

I know that the chance to make real changes for our country is to get the message out and encourage every eligible voter to cast their ballot on Oct. 19. Please download or read online "Building a Canada that Works Together 2015" at [www.greennparty.ca](http://www.greennparty.ca). I encourage you to read this short (42 pages),

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# Niagara West riding profiled

From previous page  
**NAMEER RAHMAN**  
 New Democratic Party

Age: 37  
**Occupation:** Policy specialist  
**Family:** Wife and infant son  
**Lives:** Grimsby  
**Political experience:** BA and MA in political science (economic development and trade policy). Close to two years with the Alberta NDP Legislative Caucus as a policy adviser. Served two years as an adviser with the Ontario public service (Ministry of Energy).  
**Campaign contacts:** campaign office address: 3305 19th Street, Jordan, L0R 1S0, e-mail nameer.rahman@ndp.ca, Website: www.nameerrahman.ndp.ca  
 Facebook: fb.com/nameerrahman

**Why are you seeking office?**  
 I am seeking office because Niagara needs new representation that will look after our economy, support families and protect our seniors.

Niagara has been ignored by the Harper government for 10 years. We have lost tens of thousands of manufacturing

and agricultural jobs, working families have to do more with less in poverty, with no plan to turn things around. The NDP has prioritized the manufacturing and agricultural sectors. Concrete measures like innovation tax credits, reducing small business tax from 11% to 9% and defending the dairy industry's supply management will help turn Niagara's economy around. \$15-a-day child care will make it easier for families to work and keep more in their wallets. NDP proposals to protect redtree pensions and boost GIS payments will help to ensure our seniors' independence.

**Voting for change with the NDP will make Niagara a priority again.**

**PHIL ROSE**  
 Liberal Party of Canada  
 Age: 46  
**Occupation:** Professor and musician  
**Family:** Married to Dr. Ainsley Moore MD. Member of National Task Force for Preventive Health

**Lives:** Glanbrook  
**Political experience:** literacy advocate and activist candidate in 2000 and 2004

**Campaign contact:** Office 15 Main St. E., Grimsby, L3M1M7; phone number 1-844-234-7641; Website www.PhilRose.ca, e-mail Phil@philrose.ca, Twitter @PhilRoseNWLP, Facebook https://www.facebook.com/PhilRoseRealChangeNWLP

**Why are you seeking office?**  
 Born and raised in Grimsby, I'm seeking to represent Niagara West because of my profound connection to the riding. Like most Canadians I'm exceedingly disturbed by what's transpired domestically and internationally under a decade of Conservative mismanagement, and I've had enough

with Stephen Harper's continuing insulting of our collective intelligence.

Accordingly, I feel a strong sense of civic responsibility to correct our situation, and the Liberal Party is alone in being poised to do so. Promoting an economic growth plan that works for all Canadians by buttressing the economic power of the middle class and those who wish to join it, I'm proud that we'll take the higher ground, and restore respect and integrity to our institutions, our public discourse, and the office of citizenship, and this I will begin to do by holding regular town hall meetings and focus groups on the issues that matter most to Niagara West.

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## ■ EDUCATION

# Catholic trustee fears erosion of school traditions

WYAN CAMPBELL

Special to Postmedia Network

A Welland Catholic school board trustee fears the loss of local school traditions.

"We should encourage a school to develop an individuality that reflects its neighbourhood," Ted O'Leary said last week during a progress report on Niagara Catholic District School Board's strate-

gic plan, Vision 2020.

He was concerned an across-the-board standard will deprive schools of their local characters.

"We should find ways to enhance their individuality," he said during a regular board meeting. "We should have 50 individual schools with 50 individual stories."

In particular, O'Leary pointed to proposals to make

high school graduation ceremonies similar at all eight secondary schools.

"In Welland, we have graduation in the arena. You can't get more Welland than that," he said while pointing out sponsors are "given a moment in the sun" by handing out their awards.

Notre Dame, Lakeshore, Denis Morris and St. Paul are all distinctive, O'Leary said.

Board chair Rev. Paul MacNeil said he has been dealing with the same impression and has heard that things are getting too similar across schools.

"It is good to raise it here and keep it in the back of our minds."

St. Catharines trustee Kathy Burnik said maybe it is something that is not happening but only seems like it.

Vice-chair Dino Sicoli, trustee for Port Colborne, Fort Erie and Wainfleet, said he noticed when a student receives a major scholarship his or her high school is mentioned but not earlier schools.

"If a Denis Morris student does well, why not mention their elementary school?"

Education director John Crocco said schools try to share great practices "to strengthen systems and strengthen schools."

However, he said, "they

can't change the big 'T' traditions."

In his review of Vision 2020, Crocco at Tuesday night's meeting rolled through a more than 20-page report touching on progress in technology, special education, human resources, building Catholic identity, improving accessibility to resources, increasing student voices, producing balanced budgets and addressing changing demographics across Niagara.

## Away or busy on October 19?

You can vote in advance.



If you're ready to vote early, you can vote at your advance polling place between **October 9 and 12, from noon to 8:00 p.m.**

Or you can vote at any Elections Canada office across the country any day until **October 13 at 6:00 p.m.**

For all voting locations, check your voter information card, visit [elections.ca](http://elections.ca) or call **1-800-463-6868** (TTY **1-800-361-8935**).

Elections Canada has all the information you need to be ready to vote.

**Ready to vote**

October 19, 2015



## IN BRIEF

### New way coming to report child's absence

Niagara Catholic District School Board will start a Safe Arrival System across all its schools by the end of 2015. Last spring, it tested a new way of reporting student absences, through the Synrevoice system, in two elementary schools and two high schools.

The telephone call system contacts parents at home with messages from the school or board.

Through the Safe Arrival System parents can report planned absences and it ensures unplanned absences due to illness are reported.

Parents and guardians have the option of calling a number or logging onto a website to report their child's absence. The school will record it. An app will also be available to report absences.

Unreported absences will generate a phone call, text message or e-mail to parents to advise them their child was not in class as scheduled.

Schools will tell parents when the Safe Arrival System will start and provide a card with the website and phone information.

### Support workers work to rule

Support workers for Niagara Catholic District School Board are on a work-to-rule campaign as

provincial negotiations continue with Canadian Union of Public Employees.

CUPE members include caretakers, secretaries, educational assistants, facilities services staff and other support workers.

The board does not expect this job action to be a disruption to student learning, programs and services, said education director John Crocco.

"Provincial negotiations continue with CUPE and we remain optimistic that a settlement will be reached."

### Two new student trustees

Michaela Bodis from Lakeshore Catholic High School in Port Colborne and Aidan Harold from Notre Dame College School in Welland joined Niagara Catholic District School Board this year as student trustees.

Including the students, the school board has 10 trustees. Eight are elected by Catholic school taxpayers from wards across Niagara.

### Catholic parent group gets 3 new faces

Niagara Catholic District School Board appointed three people to serve as community representatives on the Niagara Catholic Parent Involvement committee for 2015-16.

They are Shelley Gilbert of St. Vincent de Paul Society, Leone Strle of St. Catharines Diocesan Council for Development and Peace, and Heather Pyke of Ontario Association of Parents in Catholic Education (OAPCE).



## ■ MAKING ENDS MEET

# Minimum wage hike said to be too low

FRANK KEMAN  
Postmedia Network

Ontario was one of five provinces to raise its minimum wage last Thursday — a 25-cent hourly increase that brings the minimum to \$11.25.

It's an increase, but a negligible one according to many people.

"It's a step in the right direction, but it's not nearly enough," said LouAnn Binning, president of the Niagara Regional Labour Council.

Binning said that for people trying to make ends meet on minimum wage, the extra \$10 a week — assuming they are working 40 hour weeks, which many of them are not — might be the difference that puts food on the table.

"Ten dollars is going to buy milk, it's going to buy bread," Binning said.

She said that most jobs in Niagara are part-time at 20 hours a week, and that many of the workers the council represents are working two jobs, some even three jobs, to try to make ends meet.

The working poor, individuals who are working but just not making enough money, are needing to turn to food banks and social services to scrape by month-to-month, Binning said.

"We notice that in the area, the food banks are just crying for help because more and more people are having to go there."

"The council — and others across the country — say a \$15 minimum wage is what is needed."

"It needs to be at least \$15 an hour and it needs to happen now," Binning said.

Brock University economics professor Felice Martinello said last Thursday's wage increase is "tiny" and isn't going to make a big difference one way or another.

More than anything, the 25-cent wage increase is a matter of house-keeping, Martinello said.

"If you don't increase it regularly, then your minimum wage is effectively falling in real terms," Martinello said, saying if there is going to be a minimum wage it needs to rise as the cost of living indices.

But increasing the minimum wage is not going to solve issues of poverty anyway, Martinello said.

"It (increasing minimum wage) really distracts you from the problem. It's really not helping that much," he said.

"The real cures, the real fixes are much harder to do."

Martinello said many people who are living in poverty don't have jobs at all, and many people who work jobs which pay well above minimum wage are still living in poverty. He said a majority of people who are working minimum-wage jobs are teenagers who are living with their families and are not poor. He said changing the minimum wage for everybody doesn't help the people who need help the most.

"It bothers me, it's a simplistic blunt instrument that really isn't very effective," Martinello said.

And even with last Thursday's rise, Martinello said, "There's this mismatch, so trying to improve the minimum wage could make ends meet."

"I don't think you can. If you have no other sources of income and you're working at the minimum wage, and even if we were going to raise it again another dollar, they're still going to be poor," he said.

He said not even a \$15 minimum wage will be effective in solving poverty, saying that not only will a higher minimum wage lead to shifts decreases over time, but may see an increase in high school dropouts who choose to work at 10 a hour rather than finishing their education — which may help

them in the short term but will land them back in poverty down the road.

He said he absolutely appreciates why people are fighting for \$15 minimum wage and applauds their efforts, but doesn't think it would be effective.

"I absolutely applaud their efforts for that, I just say the minimum wage is not the tool you want to use to do that (alleviate poverty)," he said.

Martinello said an increase in programs such as for earned income tax credits would be a more effective way to tackle issues of poverty.

"There's a lot of poor people who aren't covered by the minimum wage," Martinello said. "There's this mismatch, so trying to improve the minimum wage when it's not really targeting the poor is not a great idea."

Third-year Brock student Erin Laughlin works two jobs trying to make ends meet while in university.

The 20-year-old who commutes from Beamsville works one job that pays more than minimum wage but only has four hours per week for her to work. Her second job is working at McDonald's for minimum wage.

She said she's fortunate that her parents are able to assist her with her tuition, but that there are still many expenses a young student has to incur,

such as her monthly car and insurance payments, gas and food — and that 25 cents more an hour isn't going to make a big difference.

"Yes, it's increasing but also so is the price of everything," Laughlin said.

She said increases such as this always feel more like a "tease" than anything that will help her in the long run.

Saskatchewan, Newfoundland and Labrador, Manitoba and Alberta also raised their minimum wages Tuesday.

The new rise in minimum wages puts Ontario in second place for highest in the country, beat only by the Northwest Territories which has a minimum wage of \$12.50 as of June this year.

Also last Thursday, the hourly minimum wage for servers climbed to \$9.80 and for students under age 18 rose to \$10.55.

frank.keman@postmedia.ca  
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## Council rejects call for donation for refugees

Port Colborne city council voted against a request from Niagara Region Chair Alan Caslin to donate \$1,000 to assist in the Syrian refugee crisis.

Caslin asked all Niagara cities and towns to consider donating \$1,000 as a show of unity and generosity to support refugees.

However, city council has voted against using public money to make such a donation.

Many councillors said they would not support a donation taken from the taxpayers of Port Colborne, but suggested a jar be put out at city hall to allow people to make donations if they choose.

An empty water glass was passed around at last Monday's meeting for councillors to get the ball rolling on donations to the cause.

**Stop sign a contentious issue at**

### Port council

A stop sign proposed for the corner of Killyal Street East and Elizabeth Street proved to be a contentious issue at last week's Port Colborne council meeting.

Ward 2 Coun. Yvon Doucet brought up the issue and put forward a motion to turn the intersection into a four-way stop.

He said people in the community wanted a stop sign and expected a decision to be made.

In the end, council's vote was split with four for the stop sign and four against. Mayor John Maloney voted against the stop sign to break the tie and defeat the motion.

Speaking afterward, Doucet said he was disappointed with council's decision.

"Why are we not doing what the communities want?" he asked.

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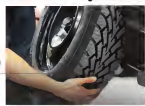
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## LITERATURE: Hundreds visit CFUW book sale



ALLAN BENNER/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Canadian Federation of University Women Welland and District Chapter volunteer Anita Howe looks through a treasure found while sorting through books donated for the organization's annual book sale Saturday in Welland.

## 'They're all treasures'

ALLAN BENNER  
Postmedia Network

There were plenty of treasures — and plenty of book lovers to hunt for them — when members of the Canadian Federation of University Women Welland and District Chapter held their annual book sale Saturday.

"They're all treasures," said volunteer Sharon Vedova, gesturing to the book-covered tables within the Niagara Regional Exhibition building.

But several of the 50 or so volunteers who ran the event this year found a few gems among the thousands of books donated by people from throughout the community.

One of those gems was a book of paintings of horse races, called *Feed*

*Stone Paints the Sport of Kings*, that was autographed by the artist and potentially worth hundreds of dollars.

Volunteer Carol Kant said the book, in mint condition, came with a certificate of registration.

"I went online and we're not quite sure how much it's worth," Kant said.

"Look at how beautiful they are," she said, while flipping through the colourful pictures.

While most of the books were \$1 each, the chapter was asking for offers on that book.

"I've got 10 books," offered a would-be buyer.

She laughed.

"I don't know about \$10," she said. Maxine Gaylor said a lot of the most collectible books were sold within the first hour after the sale opened at 9 a.m.

"But we do have a few good ones left," she added, pointing out a first edition of *Thorn Apple Tree* by Grace Campbell and several other books.

Gaylor said an older woman stopped by her table and found an old school textbook from 1917 she remembered from her childhood.

"She thought that was a special treasure," Gaylor said.

Many of the hundreds of shoppers who lined up at the door for the event found special treasures of their own.

Welland resident Jocelyne Blais found an armful of books to read, to add to her collection.

"I probably have 75 books at home that I need to read before I get to these," she said with a laugh.

"I'm addicted to reading."

Funds raised during the annual event are used to provide university scholarships of \$600 each to graduating students from eight area high schools.

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## ■ MUSIC



SUPPLIED PHOTO

St. Catharines teen Chloe Rabideau releases her debut EP tonight, and pitches in for Autism Ontario.

## Busking at 3, Niagara teen chases dream

JOHN LAW  
Postmedia Network

At 17, you might think Chloe Rabideau is a newcomer to the music scene. But if you frequented Port Dalhousie a decade or so ago, you were already seeing her perform.

Starting at age three, Rabideau would join her brother to entertain crowds near the pier (don't worry, their mom was always nearby). He would juggle, she would sing, and they quickly learned how to keep an audience engaged.

"I have a big family, so entertainment and entertaining was always a part of my life," she says. "When you're young you're not self-conscious at all, you don't think about what other people are thinking, you just do it and don't care."

"(My mom) pretended to be like a passerby, going, 'Guys come over here, there's this little girl singing!' I had a repertoire of about three or four songs and I'd just keep singing them."

She quit busking at age nine, but she was hardly done singing.

The St. Catharines teen released her debut EP last week with a portion of CD sales going to the Niagara chapter of Autism Ontario.

Rabideau's choice was clear after grad-

uating Laura Secord Secondary School earlier this year — music before college. At least for now.

"(You realize) when you come into high school that a lot of other people are doing this," she says. "A lot of young girls who have the same dream as me. But nothing has ever been so detrimental to my dream that I've ever given up. I've always known that this is what I'm going to do."

Now she has the tall task of setting herself apart. She'll start with an upcoming trip to Europe, where she plans to play clubs and build her social media profile. From there, she hopes the five polished pop songs on her EP do the rest of the job.

"This is all I do, day and night," she says. "I have an amazing group of musical friends and family who are always there to collaborate ideas with, so it's more than just me."

"Obviously, here and there people can say stuff to you, and it's a shot to your dreams and confidence," she adds. "But there's nothing else I'd rather do with my life and I'm not about to just give that up and not try as hard as I can."

john.law@sunmedia.ca

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# LOCAL NEWS

## ■ ACCOLADES

# Newcomers win big at Niagara Music Awards

JOHN LAW

Postmedia Network

Niagara's music scene endured a wet and windy night to throw itself a party a week ago Tuesday.

Rain and a late September chill couldn't deny the eighth annual Niagara Music Awards, held outdoors at Taps Brewery in downtown Niagara Falls. Rockers, folkies and headbangers alike gathered to celebrate a local music scene that left co-organizer Todd Brown in awe.

"We're spoiled," he said. "I can't listen to anything else. I could just sit and listen to Niagara music all day long. It really is that great."

And it's growing. Brown said more than 40 new artists submitted work for this year's awards, some getting multiple nominations.

One of them was St. Catharines trio Odds & Ends who won three awards, including for original group of the year. The folk rock group had seven nominations, making one of the biggest first impressions ever at the show.

"It's amazing. I can't even understand how this happened," said singer Ariella Abuto. "We're going to go to my house and celebrate as a band."

St. Catharines singer Sammi Morelli, another first-



MIKE DINATISSA/POSTMEDIA NETWORK

Steve Goldberger accepts an award at last week's Niagara Music Awards, held at Taps Brewery in Niagara Falls.

time nominee, was stunned to take home the award for female vocalist of the year.

"I'm so flabbergasted right now," she said.

The show got off to a mellow start with workhorse Niagara Falls singer Rod Standish, but got plenty rowdy later

with performances by Crutch, Ladee Lixix and Under the Red.

"It's a big night for us as a band," said Under the Red singer Lacey Lennon, whose band formed a year ago.

But with all the newcomers were plenty of familiar

faces, including Niagara-on-the-Lake's Steve Goldberger who led the pack with eight nominations (winning three) and previous winners Crutch, who took home the award for rock artist of the year.

Show co-organizer Erin Visentin said the night "is like

## WINNERS OF THE 8TH ANNUAL NIAGARA MUSIC AWARDS

**Album of the Year:** Glass

Apple Bonzai

**Adult Contemporary Artist:**

Jamie Derek Moore

**Country Artist:** Steve

Goldberger

**Engineer of the Year:** Glass

Apple Bonzai

**Female Vocalist:** Sammi

Morelli

**Male Vocalist:** Josh Mills

**Folk Artist:** Odds & Ends

**Heavy Metal Artist:**

Blindside Incentive

**Hip Hop Artist:** Jae Ari

**Instrumental Artist:** Zach

Preslon

**Jazz Artist:** Road Waves

**New Artist:** Josh Mills

**New Group:** Road Waves

**Original Group:** Odds & Ends

**Original Song:** Bryan

Sorensen

**Producer of the Year:** Steve

Goldberger

**Progressive Rock:** Left in

Line

**Engineer of the Year:** Eric

Dickson (Indoor Shoes)

**Rising Star:** Odds & Ends

**Rock Artist:** Crutch

**Songwriter of the Year:**

Steve Goldberger

**Venue:** Taps (Niagara Falls)

**Video of the Year:** Visca

**World Music:** Mudmen

**Unsung Hero (community**

**recognition):** Bunnie

Brandt, Darrell Spilchuck,

Eric Conlon, Kyle Whittaker,

John Navaroli

a reunion" for many in the scene. She believes the show has prompted more artists "to get out there and do it" since forming in 2008.

It Sharp, whose band Road Waves won two awards, told the crowd "we put a lot of energy out there, and to receive it back is awesome."

About 200 people attended the show, which Brown hopes to bring back to Taps next year.

"It would be hard to move," he said, praising Taps owner Eric Martin for giving the show a home after it hit a rough patch two years ago. "(But) we hope in the next couple of years we have to move because it's so big."

"The Meridian Centre, the convention centre, that would be fine. That's our two-year goal."

john.law@sunmedia.ca

## Veteran Profiles are FREE for all Veterans

Deadline: Monday, October 19th

Lest We Forget



THE TRIBUNE

## Remembrance Day feature Wednesday, November 11th



The feature will focus on local individuals who served in the wars as well as peacekeeping missions around the world.

The veteran profile will include their photo, name and the service they were a member of. **Please note that veterans profiled in last year's section MUST be re-ordered for inclusion in this year's section.** Veterans from last year's section may simply call 905 732 2414 ext 503283 or email [trevor.beattie@sunmedia.ca](mailto:trevor.beattie@sunmedia.ca)

We ask that readers submit a photo with name and the service they were a member of. Please drop off or email information to: **The Tribune, 228 East Main St., Welland, ON L3B 5P5. Hours: Mon - Fri 9am - 1pm.** Email your photo and information to: [trevor.beattie@sunmedia.ca](mailto:trevor.beattie@sunmedia.ca). Deadline for submissions is Monday, October 19th, 2015.



William (Bill) Daniels  
Served during WWI

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